

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/30/09 – 12/13/09**

DISTRICT 1

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy obtained information pertaining to an individual who shot a deer illegally. The officers contacted the hunter at a friend's residence and obtained a confession to shooting the deer and leaving it in the woods while he obtained the correct license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund investigated a complaint of a hunter shooting a deer at night. A check of the hunter's yard turned up a bait pile with blood but no deer. Several interviews were conducted with the individual and several leads were investigated. With the help of CO Dave Painter, the COs obtained a confession from the individual for hunting deer without a license, possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle. The hunter, who was also a felon, informed the COs of where the gun was hidden. The investigation is ongoing as the person hiding the gun was also a convicted felon.

COs Jason Wicklund and Dave Painter investigated a deer they believed was illegally taken. Simultaneous interviews were conducted by the COs which led to a confession of the deer being shot from a vehicle. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund conducted a processor inspection and observed a deer tag that was not validated. For the second time this season CO Brandon Kieft was called to assist with the investigation. CO Kieft contacted the hunter and obtained a confession.

CO Jason Wicklund checked a taxidermist and during their conversation he was informed of a deer that was brought in by a hunter from California. The CO checked the antlers and saw that a senior resident firearm tag was attached. The tag's owner was interviewed and informed the CO that he did not hunt, but his son had shot a "dandy buck". The antlers were seized and the hunter was contacted and confessed to taking the deer illegally.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy rechecked a blind from earlier in the deer season. The hunter had recently restocked his bait pile with a truck load of sugar beets and cabbage. The hunter was contacted later in the day in his blind and ticketed by CO Bacon for the baiting violation.

CO Dave Painter followed up on a complaint by contacting the suspect hunter as he left the woods transporting an uncased gun on his ORV. The hunter was questioned as to why he still had his firearm tag when an eight point buck he shot was at the local taxidermy shop. A confession was obtained for using his father's tag on the eight point deer he had already shot.

CO Marv Gerlach received a complaint of nonresident hunters not buying licenses when they hunt near Menominee. He staked out the property in question and observed three subjects head into the woods on foot carrying firearms and wearing hunter orange. Later that evening when he attempted to contact them, the subjects hid their firearms and took off their hunter orange. Eventually CO Gerlach determined that two of the three subjects were unlicensed. Both were ticketed.

CO Jason Niemi received a complaint from the Michigan State Police (MSP) in which they discovered a nine point buck with no tag on it in Menominee County. CO Niemi tracked down the subject and determined he had shot a four point and tagged it with his firearm deer license. He then shot the nine point and tagged it with a firearm deer license that his 80 year old mother provided. Action was taken.

CO Dennis Gast found household trash on commercial forest lands in Houghton County during the firearm deer season. He dug through the trash and found mail to a local household. Upon speaking with the father, he explained he told his kid to throw the trash out. His kid apparently went into the woods next to the home and tossed it on CFA property. A litter ticket cleared up the problem and the trash.

CO Marvin Gerlach responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint involving a property line dispute. Once there, his investigation led to a subject who had shot a spike horn buck who only had a combination deer license. The subject was interviewed and he admitted that he was trying to fill his father's antlerless license. He had mistaken the spike for a doe when he shot it. Action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman worked on Sporley Lake near Gwinn and contacted several anglers who were ice fishing and retaining undersized splake. Action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon investigated a hunter harassment/larceny complaint of a ladder stand that was stolen during the firearm deer season. The investigation led to the location of the stand which was set up in a different location.

CO Grant Emery worked heavy snowmobile activity in Gogebic County. Snowmobilers were taking advantage of the recent heavy snowfall. Numerous registration and trail permit violations were addressed.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Publiski investigated a subject who was in violation of the baiting regulations. The subject was not wearing hunter orange and was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski caught two subjects hunting after hours. Both subjects were also hunting over illegal bait and were illegally operating ORVs.

CO Derrick Miller responded to a shining complaint at 3:30 a.m. CO Miller located the subjects who were stuck in the mud. The CO observed a loaded and uncased firearm and a crack pipe. Further investigation revealed illegal drugs and that one of the subjects was a felon who illegally possessed the firearm. The next day CO Miller and CO Mike Hammill worked with the drug team to execute a search warrant which resulted in the seizure of more illegal drugs, with arrests made.

COs Derrick Miller and Mike Hammill investigated two subjects who were trespassing on the railroad. The hunters were located hunting from illegal tree stands and in violation of the baiting regulations. Neither were wearing hunter orange and they had utilized an ORV and snowmobile which were unregistered. The hunters also were not wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma contacted two hunters with an uncased firearm and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. Further investigation revealed one of the subjects had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kellie Nightlinger observed a subject operating an ORV at a high rate of speed. The subject turned off into the woods as CO Nightlinger attempted to make contact. Following the ORV trail, the CO located the operator, who had a loaded, uncased firearm on the unlicensed ORV. The subject was also hunting from an illegal blind and in violation of the baiting regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon contacted a subject who had attempted to drive his pickup truck through the Mosquito River in Alger County. After the vehicle became stuck, the subject made use of a front end loader to remove a berm on CFA land to access his stuck vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Carl Vanderwall is investigating a hunter harassment complaint where threats and turf wars were an issue. CO Vanderwall also targeted snowmobile enforcement due to recent snows and ticketed six operators for various infractions.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of a dog chasing a deer. When she arrived she found the deer bedded down, exhausted, and the dog lying right next to it waiting for it to get back up. The owner of the dog was located and enforcement action is forthcoming. The deer was severely injured and had to be put down.

District 3 officers combined efforts to work the December 2009 elk hunt. Officers report 124 legal elk were harvested and an additional five illegal elk killed. Illegal kills primarily involve spike bulls killed by hunters with cow only tags.

CO Mark DePew worked a complaint in Otsego County during the muzzleloader deer season and found four hunters hunting over bait at a private camp. Upon checking the hunters at their baited blinds, CO DePew also discovered one of the deer hunters using

a shotgun to hunt deer during the muzzleloader deer season. An antlerless deer was located at the camp and further investigation revealed the deer was taken with a firearm in a county where it was illegal. The illegally taken antlerless deer was also improperly tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew ticketed a nonresident for careless operation of a snowmobile for operating against the flow of traffic at a high rate of speed.

CO Mark DePew responded to a bait complaint and found bait off the back deck of the house and a loaded .22 rifle next to the back door. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew observed a slow moving vehicle on back roads at dusk on November 30. CO DePew stopped the vehicle and located an unzipped case with a fully loaded rifle in the immediate vicinity of the driver. A deer was located in the bed of the pickup and the kill tag had not been validated. The firearm and deer were seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Kelly Ross assisted on two illegally taken elk, one a spike bull killed by a hunter with a cow tag and another where the person took the elk in the wrong hunting unit. CO Ross also responded to a spike bull killed on a cow tag.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a baiting complaint and after his investigation determined an antlerless deer had been shot at night with a rifle during the closed firearm season. CO Ross also found the littered carcass from the deer on state land near the scene. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Bill Webster responded to a baiting complaint and found baited blinds on the private property, but did not find any hunters. CO Webster talked with the landowner, who admitted to baiting the blinds but said he was just feeding the deer. CO Webster ticketed the landowner for feeding deer in the Lower Peninsula.

CO Joe Molnar received information about baited blinds in Alpena County. CO Molnar found a person hunting deer in one of the baited blinds and determined a deer had been shot. The hunter denied putting out the bait even though he admitted knowing the bait was there and bait was located in his vehicle. The investigation continues after CO Molnar determined that two bucks were taken and the hunter did not purchase any buck licenses. The hunter had only purchased an antlerless deer license.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe responded to a trespass complaint in Grand Traverse County and found an empty pop-up blind with a note from the landowner advising the hunter to remove the blind immediately. A few days later CO Kehoe checked the area again and found the hunter sitting out in the open. The hunter advised he took the tent down as instructed but didn't realize he wasn't allowed to hunt, even though he never asked for permission. The subject was ticketed for recreational trespass.

COs Sean Kehoe and Steve Huff were checking an illegal bait site in Grand Traverse County when they observed a parked vehicle near the site. The COs waited on the trail and contacted the subjects leaving the area. The COs observed blood on the hands and pants of the subjects and returned to the blind and found the subjects had shot an illegal deer and hung it in a tree. In addition, a 30-06 rifle was found loaded and left in the unsecure blind. Illegal bait was also located.

CO Jair Kollasch responded to traffic accident in Wexford County where the driver had apparently fled the scene. CO Kollasch arrived on scene, observed open intoxicants near the driver's seat and footprints leading away from the vehicle. CO Kollasch followed the footprints and ended up in a foot chase with the suspect about ¼ mile from the crash scene, where the driver was apprehended.

CO Jair Kollasch responded to a snowmobile crash in Wexford County where a single victim was taken to the hospital for serious back and hip injuries. The victim was stopped at an intersection when a second snowmobile rear ended him at about 25 mph. The operator of the second snowmobile was ticketed for careless operation.

CO Angela Greenway received information about household trash being disposed of in a dumpster at a State Forest Campground (SFC) in Lake County. The trash was examined and several envelopes were found with an address on them. CO Greenway visited the address and spoke with the residents. A confession was obtained and a ticket was issued for the illegal use of the dumpster.

CO Steve Converse was conducting an inspection at a Manistee County deer processor when he observed what seemed to be information intentionally left out of the records. A visit was made to the residence of the shooter after it was finally determined who the person was. The shooter produced an unvalidated license to the CO in an attempt to cover the deer. The date on the license revealed that it was purchased after the deer was taken. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was driving along a rural Manistee County road when he observed a deer hunting blind in the woods. The blind had a good deal of disrupted snow and dirt in front of it, indicating a bait pile. Two subjects were found hunting with no hunter orange and two bait piles. One of the hunters was using a bow and arrow and the second had a muzzleloader rifle. The hunters had decided the one with the bow would shoot first if the deer came in to the close pile and the one with the muzzleloader would shoot if the deer came in to the bait farther away.

COs Brian Brosky, Angela Greenway and a local sheriff's deputy conducted a group snowmobile patrol targeting muzzleloader hunting and illegal snowmobile operation in rural Lake County. Several tickets were issued to persons operating snowmobiles illegally and a number of hunters were contacted.

CO Mike Bomay contacted a subject in possession of a spike buck. Inspection of the kill tag revealed that the deer was illegally tagged with an antlerless permit. Further

investigation resulted in an admission from this subject of taking a four point buck earlier this season.

CO Troy Vangelderren apprehended a subject for taking a deer without a license on the second day of the firearm deer season. This subject went to court and pled to the charge the very next day. During the second week of the firearm deer season CO Vangelderren responded to a complaint of trespass. Investigation revealed that the suspect was the same subject CO Vangelderren had contacted in regard to an illegal deer earlier this season. He admitted to shooting a six point buck from the roadway on private property and illegally tagging the deer with his combination restricted license. The subject received three tickets from CO Vangelderren this season and the court was reminded to issue a license revocation on this subject for the violations on the second encounter.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of shots fired after hours that occurred on the previous evening. Contact was made and a subject was found in possession of an untagged, gunshot 10 point buck in an area where the muzzleloader season was closed. This subject admitted to shooting the deer with a muzzleloader firearm behind his residence during hunting hours on the previous evening. A bait pile was also found behind the residence near the location where the deer was field dressed. CO Wells informed the subject of the complaint of shots fired after hours and a confession was obtained detailing the taking of the deer with a centerfire rifle and spotlight after dark.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a complaint of a subject who had taken a deer from a motor vehicle on private property. CO Mueller contacted the complainant who had witnessed the incident from his blind. A gunshot deer was located at the scene. Contact with the suspect resulted in an admission of trespass and taking the deer from the roadway.

CO Larn Strawn received information on a subject who had been taking bucks the past several years while his hunting privileges were revoked. The information included other subjects "covering" the deer by placing their tags on them. CO Strawn gave the information to COs Brian Lebel and Michael Bomay. The COs followed up on the information through several interviews and a taxidermy inspection and received written confessions from all parties involved. Three mounts were seized from the main suspect who admitted to shooting the deer while being revoked from hunting. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Brian Lebel received a trespass complaint from a landowner who found a fresh gut pile and drag marks on his property. Upon following the tracks back to a neighboring house, CO Lebel found a subject butchering a freshly killed antlerless deer. The deer was not tagged and the subject had not purchased any deer licenses this year. Further investigation found bait at the location where the deer was shot.

DISTRICT 5

CO John Huspen interviewed a subject who brought two otters to a DNR office to be sealed. One was legally trapped during the current season and the second had been trapped six months earlier and was not sealed during the appropriate time period.

CO John Huspen responded to a complaint from a landowner who had located a deer carcass and gut pile dumped on his property. The carcass had a kill tag from the Upper Peninsula with it. The hunter was contacted and gave CO Huspen a statement about his hunt but was unable to give a location of where he had shot the deer in the Upper Peninsula, only that he knew it was in the correct area. The date on which he stated he shot the deer was different than the date on the validated kill tag and a poor explanation was given as to why the gut pile would have been brought back from the U.P.

When CO Bobbi Lively contacted a hunter who was sitting in his vehicle on a remote stretch of road, the hunter told the CO he was waiting for his hunting buddies. CO Lively located a loaded and uncased firearm in the vehicle alongside the hunter. The hunter was unable to produce a valid kill tag and was drinking alcohol at the time of the contact.

CO Mike Hearn contacted two subjects who were cutting wood on land that was part of a timber producer's active sale. The subjects had obtained fuelwood permits earlier in the year but they had since expired. Chainsaws and wood were seized.

CO Mike Hearn contacted a subject who was hunting illegally over a bait pile with a firearm while under the influence of alcohol. Upon leaving the area, CO Hearn located the subject's brother who was hunting nearby without a valid license.

CO Chris Bowen received a complaint of a subject baiting and trapping at his residence. CO Bowen did not find any bait but did locate live traps. He also observed a skinned out deer which the subject claimed was a road kill for which he had not obtained a permit. The subject told CO Bowen that his brother was a witness to the road kill. At the brother's residence, CO Bowen located a substantial amount of deer feed placed out at the residence.

After seeing a picture in the local newspaper of two ten point bucks taken in the first days of the firearm deer season, CO Brian Engelhard received a complaint of baiting at the same location where the deer had been taken. CO Engelhard subsequently located three bait piles on the property and obtained a confession from the landowner.

CO Tami Pullen observed a woman walking across a road while carrying a muzzleloader and she did not appear to be dressed for deer hunting. Upon investigation, it was determined that the woman was assisting her husband by getting his gun out of the woods so he wouldn't get caught with it while trespassing and dressed in full camouflage. The husband was hiding just off the road in the woods.

CO Becky Hopkins investigated a complaint of a subject who had been hunting at night with a rifle. An hour after the end of hunting hours, CO Hopkins located the subject's

tracks and followed them to his blind where she found the subject still sitting with a loaded crossbow and an illegal bait pile.

CO Joel Lundberg encountered two subjects who were road hunting from a vehicle. The passenger was standing in the bed of the pick up truck with a loaded 7 mm rifle. The subjects admitted to the CO that they had just seen a deer and were trying to get it.

CO Joel Lundberg was checking an illegal bait pile when a subject sitting in the blind took off running through the woods. CO Lundberg tracked the subject through the woods for about a half mile before catching up to him. The subject stated he ran because he knew his bait was illegal and he didn't want a ticket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of shining at 1:00 a.m. The local deputies stopped a vehicle with two subjects shining while in possession of a loaded rifle. One of the subjects had a previous conviction for hunting deer during the closed season. Both subjects were lodged in the county jail.

CO Jason McCullough concluded a lengthy investigation of a camp whose occupants had been shooting overlimits of deer for several years. During the investigation, CO McCullough also located several illegal baits and found violations for loaning and borrowing deer licenses, along with several subjects shooting more deer than they were licensed for.

CO Brian Olsen stopped a vehicle coming out of the woods with two subjects and a freshly killed untagged doe. One of the subjects had shot the deer and did not have an antlerless license.

DISTRICT 6

CO Vicki Goss received a call from CO Chris Simpson in reference to a tagging violation located while conducting a meat processor inspection. CO Goss followed up on the complaint. During the investigation the CO located two additional tagging violations. Enforcement action taken

CO Dan Lee received a complaint of a subject who may have taken too many deer during the gun season. During the investigation the subject showed the CO the deer he had in his garage, an eight point rack in the freezer, a six point, and a non-typical five point in a bucket of bleach, a spike, and an antlerless deer. The subject had purchased only one tag for the season but had a story for each deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee was patrolling near the Shiawassee River State Game Area (SGA) during muzzleloader season when he observed a truck driving slowly on the game area access roads. The CO stopped the vehicle to check for weapons. CO Lee was met by a cloud of smoke from the vehicle. When the CO asked the road hunters what they were

smoking, one acted surprised by the question, while the other proudly stated they were "smokin' deer." Marijuana was seized from the vehicle and enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss followed up on a RAP baiting complaint, found the bait, and tracked two individuals through the woods. The subjects were in possession of a freshly killed deer, and upon seeing the CO, one of the subjects quickly validated and attached his kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint regarding trespassing by a group of hunters not wearing hunter orange. The CO made his way to the suspects' residence and located five hunters coming in from the woods. Three of the hunters were not wearing hunter orange and two were without hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted by a local deputy on a traffic stop. During the stop the deputy had located a loaded 30-06 in the cab of the vehicle. The CO went to the scene and interviewed the suspect, who stated the gun had been loaded in the truck since the end of firearm deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

During muzzleloader season, CO Seth Rhodea used the fresh snow in the area to locate numerous hunters in the Minden SGA. Many of the hunters who were contacted had violations that included failing to wear hunter orange, using screw in tree steps on state land and no name and address on tree stands. Enforcement action was taken on all violations.

While checking hunters near the Minden SGA, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a subject who, earlier in the year, had been found in possession of marijuana. When asked if the subject had any marijuana this time the hunter stated he had given that stuff up. After talking with the hunter for a short time CO Rhodea ended up confiscating a large amount of marijuana off the hunter. The individual was arrested and lodged at the local jail and is facing several felony charges as well as several misdemeanor charges.

CO Seth Rhodea received a trespassing complaint from the local dispatch on opening morning of muzzleloader season. The CO responded and located a subject who matched the description in a field near the complainant's house. When the CO contacted the hunter he stated he wasn't trespassing, but did have a shotgun. CO Rhodea confirmed that the hunter was not the person who was trespassing, but did ticket the hunter for hunting with shotgun during the muzzleloader season.

CO Jason Smith issued a ticket to a hunter who came out of the woods with a loaded firearm and an untagged deer an hour after legal hunting hours ended.

DISTRICT 7

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar worked on an investigation in Allegan County where a subject was found trespassing and taking a deer with a firearm during the closed season. Tickets were issued.

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar were conducting a deer processor inspection that led to an Ottawa County taxidermist. During the investigation they discovered improper records and a deer which had been imported from Illinois, whole, in violation of CWD regulations. The operator of the business was ticketed for these violations but further investigation found five deer from Kansas, similarly imported and accepted in violation of CWD regulations. While inspecting the business, COs documented numerous additional Kansas racks and skulls which were brought to the business with no records or licenses to verify their origin. Kansas officials have been forwarded information for further investigation in that state.

CO Mike Mshar worked several complaints in Allegan County including a bait/feed situation in which a ticket was issued and another incident which led the CO to Grand Rapids to establish that a deer, examined earlier at a processor, was actually killed by the son of the license purchaser who would have been physically unable to be afield.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a trespass case where he located evidence of a deer kill, a drag mark and spent rifle cartridge. CO Mshar tracked the subjects to their residence and located two bucks the subjects had killed. An eight point buck had been killed with a centerfire rifle and another buck was taken with a shotgun. Each deer was taken during the December muzzleloader season.

COs Paul Higashi and Chris Holmes were called to investigate a fully camouflaged hunter with a bow who was dropped off near a light industrial area. Upon investigation they located the hunter in a tree stand hunting over bait while trespassing. Tickets were issued at the scene.

CO Paul Higashi was called to a large retail outlet where someone had just netted a duck with a hand net. CO Higashi located the subjects at a residence via a license plate and found they had netted two ducks and clipped their flight feathers to add the mallards to their domestic ducks and other domestic fowl. CO Higashi relocated the ducks to a local rehabilitator and ticketed the subject for taking the waterfowl from the wild illegally.

CO Ken Cerny responded to a complaint about someone hunting within a safety zone. CO Cerny located a father and son hunting 150 yards from a building. Subjects also had bait out. Checking further, the father had two outstanding warrants, one for child support and another for marijuana.

CO Andy Bauer received information regarding a subject who was taking an overlimit of white fish at the St Joseph pier. CO Bauer contacted the subject, who had six fish in a bucket and ten fish hidden under carpet in the wheel well of his vehicle. The subject admitted to taking an overlimit of white fish.

During archery season CO Andy Bauer contacted two subjects who originally fled from him. At the time of this contact CO Bauer advised both subjects on the proper antlerless license needed for hunting on public lands. During muzzleloader season, CO Bauer again encountered one of the subjects he had previously talked with about licenses. The individual still did not have the proper license needed to be hunting antlerless deer on public land.

CO Mike McGee and Sgt. Bob Torres contacted two muzzleloader hunters coming out of the woods at the end of hunting hours in Cass County. Neither had licenses and one was not wearing hunter orange. Further investigation revealed that one of the subjects had given his brother's information. Turns out the subject who used his brother's information was revoked from hunting until 2011. He has been revoked since 2007 when he was convicted of illegal killing of a deer.

DISTRICT 8

While investigating a baiting complaint, CO Rich Nickols located a subject who had purchased both a combination license and a deer license for 2009. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Damon Owens observed a vehicle overlooking a field. The COs contacted the occupant of the vehicle who was hunting deer with an uncased and loaded firearm inside the vehicle. The subject was also hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a baiting complaint, CO Damon Owens received information that a group of people shot a deer on private property, quickly loaded the deer into a vehicle and drove away. While investigating the trespass complaint, CO Owens located the shooter and the illegally taken buck approximately 60 miles from the scene. Enforcement action was taken on both the original baiting complaint and the buck taken illegally while trespassing.

CO Pete Purdy received a complaint about an illegal tree stand that was baited. CO Purdy's investigation led him to a subject that had a loaded firearm after the close of shooting hours, was hunting over bait and had failed to put his name and address on his tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy assisted the local deputies with a barricaded gunman situation. The COs were called to assist when a subject who was hunting fled from the deputies and barricaded himself in his house. The incident ended peacefully after the SWAT team was called in. The numerous violations included trespassing, hunting within a safety zone, hunting without wearing hunter orange, using a shotgun during the muzzleloader season, possession of an illegal muskrat, possession of an untagged deer, and felon in possession of a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster responded to a complaint where the complainant's neighbors were placing bait. CO Webster used the complainant's property to access the baited area of the complaint. While crossing onto the complaint property, CO Webster located a baited area on the complainant's property. When confronted the complainant stated that he didn't think the CO would find the bait on his own property. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

CO Jeff Goss contacted a subject who admitted to purchasing his deer license and licenses for his juvenile children after the deer were already killed. The antlers were taken to an unlicensed taxidermist and an inspection of the taxidermy shop produced 42 untagged specimens. The owner of the taxidermy shop tried to hide several of the specimens outside under lawn furniture. The investigation also revealed antlers taken from unlicensed, nonresident hunters. The investigation continues.

CO Jason J. Smith contacted the driver of a vehicle who appeared to be road hunting and noticed the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Further investigation revealed the illegal activity and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rick Villerot assisted Madison and Cambridge Townships with safety zone, trespass, untagged deer and hunting out of season complaints. Enforcement action was taken in both venues.

CO Rich Nickols received a complaint from an individual who stated he found evidence of a deer that had been taken illegally. The complainant had the license plate number of a possible suspect. CO Nickols investigated the complaint and interviewed a subject who stated he had taken a deer to the processor the day before. CO Nickols' investigation led him to a barn where there was a freshly killed doe. The subject stated he was covering for his son who took the deer illegally. The violations included take deer without a license, take deer with a shotgun during the muzzleloader season, recreational trespass, and driving without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a RAP complaint about a subject trespassing and illegally baiting. CO Nickols located shelled corn scattered on the ground in the woods and on the complainant's property. When the subject was questioned about the bait he stated that the farmer told him that if he scattered the seed in the snow it would grow the following spring. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a baiting complaint, CO Dan Prince located a blind that had a battery inside the blind which operated a light that shone on a bait location. CO Prince contacted the owner of the blind who admitted to hunting over a lighted bait pile but stated he hadn't taken any deer. CO Prince's investigation revealed a large deer rack. Enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a complaint from October, CO Dan Bigger located several marijuana plants while tracking several trespassers on private property. CO Bigger located the trespassers who were in possession of several untagged traps, were in

possession of a .22 rifle and a .410 shotgun with no licenses, and who were not wearing any hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger located a subject hunting illegally from a tree stand. The subject didn't want to leave the tree stand he was hunting from as he was hunting with a shotgun during the muzzleloader season. CO Bigger convinced the subject that it would be in his best interest to come out of the stand. The subject stated that he was shocked to see a CO that far out in the woods and never expected to get caught hunting illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster located a subject in the Sharonville SGA who took a deer over an illegal bait pile and failed to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

COs Kris Kiel and Ken Kovach checked waterfowl hunters on Harsen's Island. The COs issued a ticket to a subject for a loaded gun in a moving boat and gave verbal warnings for possessing too many shells in the managed area and no permit for the managed area. Later in the patrol, the COs issued tickets to three more subjects for possessing too many shells in the managed area.

CO John Borkovich responded to assist the Port Huron Police Department (PHPD) with a loose reindeer. The reindeer was part of a Christmas display in the downtown area and escaped into the city. The PHPD had to block off intersections and close down roads to contain the animal. Finally, CO Borkovich and the PHPD corralled the reindeer near the water and it was directed into the owner's trailer.

While patrolling for muzzleloader hunters, CO Ben Lasher walked into a complaint of baiting on Michigan Nature Association property. CO Lasher contacted a subject hunting over the bait with a shotgun and slugs and no hunter orange. Tickets were issued.

CO Ben Lasher assisted local sheriff's department deputies on a body recovery in the Pine River. Apparently the subject was called in missing the day prior and was recovered the next day in the river by the authorities.

CO Ken Kovach contacted a subject at the Harsen's Island Managed Waterfowl Unit who was in possession of over 50 steel shot rounds more than the allotted minimum. A ticket was issued.

While inspecting deer at a local processor, CO Mark Papineau observed a deer that yielded several violations on a subject. The individual has purchased an overlimit of deer hunting licenses since 2000 and taken untagged deer to the processor. The deer were taken three days prior and not tagged until the processor brought it to the subject's attention. Warrants are being requested.

COs Ben Lasher and Todd Szyska walked into an ongoing complaint of bait that CO Lasher had been working in Clay Township. This time, however, a subject was hunting over the bait which consisted of carrots and mineral block on property currently in foreclosure and owned by the bank. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Lasher and Todd Szyska were checking for waterfowl hunters in the St. John's Marsh Unit when they contacted a subject hunting for deer in the wildlife refuge. The subject was archery hunting and only had a firearm deer license on his person. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green followed up on a continuing RAP complaint of a subject waterfowl hunting on Lake St. Clair near the complainant's home. After checking the area and looking at the hunter from different angles, it was determined that he was well outside of the complainant's safety zone.

Responding to a complaint of subjects with ground fires on state lands, CO Walzak contacted two local subjects who were just leaving Celeron Island - a part of the Pointe Mouillee SGA in the lower Detroit River. The subjects claimed that they had not built the fire, they were just keeping it going. Asked why they hadn't bothered to extinguish the fire, one of the two merely shrugged his shoulders. Inspecting their vessel, the CO found that the owner had failed to transfer registration on the vessel and they were also in possession of and consuming alcohol on the island. When CO Walzak asked if they were aware of the rules against ground fires and alcohol, both individuals responded that they were aware. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft investigated a complaint of a subject shooting deer at night over a bait pile. Contact was made with the subject at a tower blind 30 minutes after hunting hours had ended. The individual had mounted a video camera to a nearby tree overlooking a large bait pile. The camera was connected by underground wire to a monitor inside the blind, so the hunter could see the bait pile in the dark. Mounted on the outside of the blind was a 15 million candlepower spotlight. The lens of the spotlight was covered with a red and green cellophane filter. This spotlight contained wires that fed inside the blind and was able to be turned on by a foot pedal. Also inside the blind was a loaded crossbow. The hunter also admitted to shooting a five point buck from the blind without a license. The individual's equipment was seized, the processed venison was confiscated and donated, and warrants will be sought on the case.